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AM-Iran-Vance
By Jeffrey Antevil
WASHINGTON, April 29, Reuter - Cyrus Vance opposed the Iran hostage rescue mission not because he doubted its feasibility but because of possible severe policy consequences, including Soviet intervention, Administration officials said today.

The officials said Mr Vance, who resigned as Secretary of State in protest over the mission, was the only one of President Carter's senior advisers to oppose it.

They said reports that the Central Intelligence Agency also recommended against the mission, predicting many casualties among American hostages in Teheran, were not true -- or at least not reflected in CIA Director Stansfield Turner's stance.

Admiral Turner, the officials said, voted for the mission in the National Security Council (NSC). Other members of the NSC include the Secretaries of State and Defense.

The mission was called off when three of the eight large helicopters being used by the rescue force developed mechanical troubles. Then, during the withdrawal from an Iranian desert strip 200 miles from Teheran, eight U.S. servicemen were killed and five injured in a collision between a C-130 transport plane and a helicopter.*

However, despite the tragic outcome of the mission, Mr Vance did not base his opposition on its feasibility, the officials said.

His concern, they said, was that regardless of whether it succeeded or failed, it could increase tensions in the strategic Persian Gulf region and give Moscow an excuse for intervening there.

Other possible repercussions cited by Mr Vance included adverse reactions from U.S. allies in Western Europe and Japan and from friendly oil-producing Persian Gulf states such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In fact,

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